

Claim 55. (currently amended) An assembly for fixing a tube to a patient's mouth for medical purposes, the assembly comprising

tube clamping means for detachably clamping the tube with the tube fixed to the patient's head, the tube clamping means comprising

- (a) first positioning means for positioning the tube,
- (b) a first tube clamping member,
- (c) a second tube clamping member; and
- (d) means for hingeable movement of the second tube clamping member with respect to the first tube clamping member

wherein said first positioning means has a top portion that extends above a top portion of the first and second tube clamping members and a bottom portion that extends below a bottom portion of the first and second tube clamping members, said first tube clamping member being fixedly disposed with respect to the first positioning means and having a concave bearing surface which curves toward the top portion of the first positioning means with the tube fixed to the patient's mouth, and wherein the second tube clamping member is moveable between a closed clamping position, in which the tube is kept clamped between the first and second tube clamping members with the first tube clamping member extending under the tube, and an open position, in which the tube clamping means can freely receive the tube and the tube can find support on the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member which provides an upwardly facing bearing surface for the tube, without movement of the first tube clamping member relative to the first positioning means,

the assembly further comprising securing means for detachably securing the assembly around the patient's head, said securing means comprising second

positioning means for connecting the securing means to the first positioning means to facilitate positioning of the tube clamping means.

Claim 57. (currently amended) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein the second positioning means comprises an occipital strap and a plurality of flexible, detachable attachment straps that extend between the occipital strap and the first positioning means, the occipital strap comprising slots for the attachment straps, the second positioning means comprising means for adjusting the attachment straps as to length whereby the attachment straps can be secured to themselves on both sides of the patient's head ~~with~~ when the tube is clamped by said first and second tube clamping members fixed to the patient's head.

Claim 85. (currently amended) A method for fixing a tube to the mouth of a patient comprising the steps of:

- (i) providing the assembly of claim 55;
- (ii) clamping the tube in the tube clamping means, with the securing means secured to the patients head and with the tube fixed to the patient's head, by moving the second tube clamping member between the open position and the closed clamping position with the first tube clamping member fixed to the first position means; ~~wherein said first positioning means has a~~ wherein the top portion of the first positioning means extends that extends above a top portion of the first and second tube clamping members and above lips of the patient and a bottom portion of the first positioning means extends below the first and second tube clamping members and below the lips of the patient ~~with the tube fixed to the patient's mouth.~~

Claim 91 (new) The assembly according to claim 55, wherein said assembly comprises a bite member having a concave bearing surface that is conterminous with the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member, with the second tube clamping member covering only the concave bearing surface of the first tube clamping member in the closed clamping position.